



Reservoir High School
Concert Choir
Syllabus and Grading Policy
Dr. Knauf



OBJECTIVES

The goals of this course are to develop healthy vocal technique; increase knowledge of musical terminology, style, theory, and history; and to strengthen the musical reading and listening skills of each individual singer. These goals will be met through ensemble and solo discovery of a variety of musical genres, periods, languages, and cultures in rehearsals and performances as well as through class ear training. In addition to the development of musical abilities, it is hoped that through active participation in the class and music program in general, students will develop positive attitudes toward themselves and others and a strong spirit of cooperation.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Pencil
- Assigned music and folder
- Notebook or section of a notebook for notes/journaling

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

- **RESPECT** should be shown to each and every singer in the ensemble, to student leaders, and to the director; we work as a team towards the goal of creating excellent music! Support and encourage each other in every way possible.
- Be seated in your assigned seat with music and pencil ready by the sound of the bell.
- Stay on task: Be prepared with your music open to the correct page during rehearsal, even if your section is not singing...you can learn from what the other singers in the room are doing! Listen to directions, even if your section is not singing.
- Dedicate regular time outside of class reviewing and practicing vocal technique and the assigned music (suggested 20-30 minutes daily, don't cram!). Students will memorize all music for concert performance.
- Demonstrate consistent effort and be engaged in the rehearsal. Ask questions when clarification or help is needed.
- Maintain proper posture when singing. Feel free to slouch at any other time!
- Only students in lunch choir should bring food or drink into the choral room. Water bottles are allowed.
- No gum. Please discard gum before you enter the choir room.
- The RHS electronics and dress code policies will be enforced.
- If you are suffering from a temporary sore throat or loss of voice, you are still expected to participate in all non-vocal activities during rehearsal. This includes physical, non-vocal warm-ups and following and marking the music. Sleeping, reading, or doing other homework will not be allowed. If you are too sick to participate, you will be sent to the nurse and be given an excused absence, for which you must make up any missed work.
- Music is the property of the school; keep it in the best possible condition. Students are responsible for the cost of replacing any lost or damaged music.

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance is required at every rehearsal of the ensemble, whether during the regular class period or during afternoon/evening rehearsals. If you know you will be absent for a specific rehearsal for a legitimate reason, please notify Dr. Knauf **in writing** as far in advance as possible, no later than one week before the absence. You are responsible for learning any material covered and making up any work assigned.
- If you have more than two unexcused absences from after school rehearsals leading up to a concert, you may not be able to perform in that concert, severely affecting your quarterly grade, and you may be removed from participating in the Spring Trip.
- Attendance at rehearsals during concert weeks is *mandatory*. If you miss a rehearsal during a concert week, except in emergency or religious situations, or RHS athletic conflicts according to the sports policy, you will not be permitted to sing in the concert; *you will still be expected to attend the concert*, but will not be allowed to perform, thus lowering your performance grade.
- Attendance at all performances is mandatory. If you know you will be absent from a concert for an approved reason, including RHS athletic conflicts according to the sports policy, Dr. Knauf must receive a written note from your

parents at least one week in advance. Failure to do so will result in a lowering of your performance grade. **Unexcused absence from a performance will severely affect your quarterly grade.**

CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT MISBEHAVIOR INCLUDING LATENESS TO CLASS

Students must be in their assigned seats with a pencil in hand and their music out *by the sound of the late bell*. Rehearsal points will be deducted for any unexcused lateness.

It is also the expectation that each student in the ensemble participates and contributes in a positive manner. A student who creates disruptions, behaves in a negative or non-courteous manner to any fellow student or the director, or fails to follow the class expectations, including lateness to class, will earn the following consequences:

- First violation: Student/staff member conference
- Second violation: Parent contact – SIR
- Third violation: Parent contact (oral or written) and detention - SIR
- Fourth & subsequent violations: Referral to administrator

GRADING POLICY

I. Performances/Dress Rehearsals 35%

Up to 100 points will be earned for each concert in which you perform, and up to 50 points will be earned for each dress rehearsal and concerts in which you don't perform. ***Attendance for the entire duration of all concerts is MANDATORY. Students are expected to attend all RHS Music Department concerts, even if your ensemble is not performing.***

To be successful in a concert and/or dress rehearsal means to:

- Arrive by the announced call time (to be early is to be on time!)
- Be dressed appropriately for the event. Concert attire is worn for concerts in which you are performing (but not dress rehearsals!) and dressy-casual when you are an audience member.
- Behave professionally. Stay focused when you are in rehearsal or performing.
- Be in the right place at the right time. When performing, stay with your ensemble. When an audience member, stay in the auditorium for all of the remaining performances.
- Demonstrate proper concert etiquette. This includes turning off cell-phones (even better, don't bring them in the auditorium), remaining silent during performances, leaving to use the bathroom only in-between musical selections when there is applause (preferably you should wait until intermission), and most importantly, supporting your fellow musicians!

Points will be deducted from the performance grade for not meeting the above expectations.

II. Rehearsal Skills/Participation 40%

Students will earn up to 10 points for daily rehearsals, based upon the following rubric:

Points earned	Rehearsal Skills
9-10	Student is on time. Very good to excellent participation. † Excellent preparation: has music, pencil, and notebook.
7-8	Unexcused tardy with excellent participation OR Good participation overall, Fair preparation: no pencil, Chewing gum, or eating food (except for lunch choir)
5-6	Poor preparation: no music and/or notebook Fair participation
1-4	Student is unprepared: no music, pencil, and/or notebook Poor participation
0	Lack of participation/removal of student from rehearsal Unexcused absence

†Participation is based on how well a student follows the class expectations outlined above.

III. Assignments, Quizzes, Tests 25%

Points will be earned for any work assigned, including, but not limited to:

- Part checks
- Smart Music Assessments
- Journal entries
- Concert reviews
- Score marking
- Sight reading
- Music theory
- Part study at home
- Constructed responses
- Rhythm tests

Unless otherwise directed by Dr. Knauf, students should complete work individually. All students are expected to abide by the Reservoir Honor Code at all times and will be held accountable for any violations of the Honor Code.

Students may make up work missed due to an excused absence. Upon returning to school, students have as many days as were excused to make up the work. Students who miss work due to an *unexcused* absence are still expected to make up the work. Late work will be accepted for partial credit for one class period after the due date. After that, late work will not receive credit. Extra credit points may be offered on specific assignments or assessments, but no extra credit assignments will be offered.

The highest grades will be earned by hard-working and committed students; i.e., those who demonstrate leadership and personal integrity through behavior, posture, effort, and a positive attitude. Because this is a performance-based class, it is expected that students will devote time outside of school for rehearsals, practice, and performances. The director always maintains the right to remove any student from a performance if the student's preparation or behavior limits the effectiveness of that performance.

Grades and teacher comments may be checked through the Aspen Parent Portal:

<https://fp.hcpss.org/aspen/logon.do>

Grading Scale

89.5 – 100 % = A 79.5 – 89.4 % = B 69.5 – 79.4 % = C 59.5 – 69.4 % = D 0 – 59.4 % = E

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website: www.rhsmusic.wikispaces.com

E-mail: gknauf@hcpss.org (e-mail is the best way to reach me)

Music Department phone: 410-888-8864

IMPORTANT DATES (see the full calendar for a complete list of rehearsals, events, etc.)

October 21 st	Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal – 2:30-5:30 PM
October 22 nd	Fall Concert (all ensembles except Symphonic & Jazz Bands) & Tri-M Induction – 7 PM
November 16 th	Junior All State Auditions
November 23 rd	Senior All State Auditions
December 4 th	Concert Choir Dress Rehearsal – 6-9 PM
December 7 th	Winter Concert I (CB, PE, CC, O) – 3 PM
December 10 th	Men's & Women's Choirs & Madrigal Singers Dress Rehearsal – 2:30-6:30 PM
December 11 th	Winter Concert II (SB, JB, MC, WC, Mads) – 7 PM
December 18 th	Winter Concert Snow Date – 7 PM
January 25 th	Pop's Concert (all ensembles) – 6:30-10 PM (snow dates, Jan. 28 th , Feb. 1 st)
February 10 th	Chamber Choir Masterclass @ WLHS 9 AM- 1 PM (snow date Feb. 11 th)
February 20 th -23 rd	All State Senior Choruses @ Morgan State University
March 7 th -9 th	All State Junior Chorus in Hagerstown
March 10 th	Concert Choir Dress Rehearsal—6-9 PM
March 11 th	Concert Choir/Chamber Choir Assessment @ Howard HS – 2:30-9 PM, exact time TBA
April 24 th -27 th	Spring Trip
May 5 th	Concert Choir Dress Rehearsal – 6-9 PM
May 7 th	Spring Concert I (CB, PE, CC, O) – 7 PM
May 8 th	Men's & Women's Choirs & Madrigals Dress Rehearsal – 2:30-5:15 PM
May 10 th	Spring Concert II (SB, JB, MC, WC, Mads) – 3 PM
May 13 th	End of the Year Awards Banquet – 5:15 PM, dinner, 7:30 PM awards

Concert Choir Syllabus & Grading Policy 2013-2014

Please sign and return this portion of the syllabus to the director, confirming that you have read and understood the expectations and policies of the Reservoir High School Concert Choir Class Syllabus and Grading Policy.

Student Name (print)

Date

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

☐ Please check this box if you would like to be added to the RHS Music Dept. e-mail listserv to receive important information throughout the year and legibly print the e-mail address(es) that you would like to subscribe below.

Parent/Guardian Name

e-mail address

Parent/Guardian Name

e-mail address